Mark - Commentaries by Grandma Smith

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Man Who Saw Men as Big as Trees, The

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You will surely remember that when Jesus was here on earth, He showed wonderful power to heal anyone who needed healing. One of His names is “Wonderful,” and His power has not changed.

Why then do we read of many in Israel, before Jesus came to earth, who were sick with leprosy and other diseases? And why are many Christians sick today? That puzzle is answered when we remember that our wonderful Savior healed everyone who came to Him when He was here. But now He is gone because the world did not want Him. We who are redeemed by His precious blood know that He does not hide His love today, but He hides His power. Even if you are sick, you can be sure that He loves you and He cares. “Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood” (Revelation 1:5).

When Jesus was here, the people brought a blind man to Him. Just touch him, the people said to Jesus. But they were not wise to tell Jesus what to do. His wisdom is perfect, and if we choose our own way of getting things done, we are sure to be losers.

Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. Then He did a very unexpected thing - He spit on the blind man’s eyes. Are you surprised? This act shows us that Jesus was so holy that everything that came from His mouth was holy too.

This is not true of all the things that come from our mouths; bad words, angry words, lies and bad germs may come from us. But take a moment to think of the perfect holiness of the Son of God. He is the One we must meet in eternity. Are you afraid?

Then Jesus put His hands on the man and said, Do you see anything? “I see men as trees, walking,” the man said. They must have seemed like very great men! Perhaps that is a reminder to us not to see men bigger than God made them.

Jesus put His hands again on the man’s eyes and made him look up. Then he saw every man clearly!

Are you saved from your sins already, and do you see some great man who is very important or very terrifying in your life? It is Jesus Himself who is all-important, and it is His Word we obey. Come to Him and ask His viewpoint for all that is around you.

What was the next thing the man was to do? Jesus, the one who had given him his eyesight, told him what to do. Go to your house - not to town - and don’t tell anyone in the town were Jesus’ instructions to the man.

Now that you are truly saved, perhaps you find that telling the folks at home is the hardest thing to do. They may tease you and expect you to live a Christian life right there with your family, and Satan will tempt you in all kinds of wrong ways. It is good to remember that Jesus sent you there, and He is able to keep you from failing, if you come to Him for His power.

The people in the town would soon find out that the blind man could now see. They would probably ask, Who made that blind man so different? It was Jesus, and all the praise and honor belong to Him.

Think About God’s Word!

1. Did the man see clearly at first?

2. What happens when you look through someone else’s glasses? How does 1 Corinthians 13:12 show us that we will see someday when we have Jesus’ vision?

Project: How long did it take the Apostle Paul in Acts 9 to see clearly?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Deaf Man Hears, The

When Jesus was here, there were many, many people who had illnesses and diseases, just like people today. His power and His willingness to heal were available to anyone who would come to Him. The only sick people who were not healed by Jesus were the ones who did not choose to come to Him. All the people were eager to be healed, but many did not want Jesus, the Son of God. The crowd who cried, “Crucify Him!” was so great that it may have included some of those healed people too. And we know that they all died later on, even the healed ones.

Is Jesus so angry with us that He has gone away forever? Oh, no! He is in heaven now, and His loving promises are far more wonderful than good health in bodies that will finally die anyway. The Lord Jesus promises eternal life, and it doesn’t end here in a world of trouble and sorrow. Eternal life goes on and on in His wonderful home of happiness and love, and it never ends! And best of all, eternal life will be spent with HIM! Is that what you want? If so, then God who cannot lie makes this promise to you today: “Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:15).

When Jesus was here on earth, there was a man who was completely deaf. He not only couldn’t hear any sound at all, but he also had a tongue problem and could not speak clearly. But he had some friends who really wanted to help him, and they brought him to Jesus and begged Jesus to heal the man.

Jesus knows that no two of us are alike and that our needs are not all the same. Jesus took the deaf man by the hand and led him away from the crowd, and looking up to heaven, He groaned. Why would Jesus groan? After all, He had all power to heal - He was the Son of God. We need to remember that our Jesus is a real Savior. He knows all about you, and He feels and cares about all those problems in your life that you can't tell to anybody. He loves you so much that He doesn't save you as if He pressed a button for your salvation. And He loved the deaf man so much that He groaned because of the man's awful condition. Then Jesus said, "Be opened," and immediately the deaf man's ears were healed and he could hear, and his tongue was healed and he could speak clearly!

Jesus told the healed man and his friends, Don't talk about this to anyone. Perhaps Jesus wanted the man's good hearing and clear speaking to show itself to the people. They couldn't miss seeing how real his healing was.

I wonder if your Christian life is such that people can't miss seeing that you are a real believer in Jesus. You have ears to listen to Him and a tongue to speak of Him. Do your friends know that Jesus is your Savior and has cleansed you from all your sins?

But the more Jesus urged the healed man and his friends not to make a public fuss about the man's healing, the more they told everyone far and wide. Jesus has done all things well, they said. He makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak. What they said sounded very good and was true, but they were not obeying Jesus. If you are saved, will you listen to God's Word and let Him choose for you? If you trusted Him for your salvation, now trust Him for every day as it comes.

Think About God's Word!

1. How long did it take to heal the deaf man?

2. Has God healed you? What does 1 Peter 2:24 tell that He's done for Christians?

Project: How many times in the Gospels does it say that a person was healed immediately? You can start your list with the person in Mark 10:46-52.

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Leper Makes a Mistake, The

You have heard that Jesus grew up among the poor people in a place called Galilee. When He was a man, He did not stand proudly and make crowds listen to Him.

At the beginning of the day, Jesus got up early and went to a quiet spot in the desert where He prayed. That was the day a leper came to Him. A leper was a person who had a deadly disease called leprosy. Because other people could catch the disease from a leper, he was called "unclean" and no one must touch him. This poor leper was miserable, hopeless and lonely. But he could still listen to the town news, and he heard of Jesus who could heal a leper of that terrible disease!

Good news? Yes, if it's true.

But we have better news than that for you right now. Not just some smart doctor who has a cure for cancer or AIDS or some other terrible disease. There is the Savior of sinners who can take away all your sins forever and has a home in heaven for you! He loves you and gave His life for you. Will you do what that leper did and just come?

The leper was sure of Jesus' power to heal, but he was not very sure if Jesus would heal a poor leper. Maybe Jesus was too busy or maybe He healed only rich and important people.

Are you wondering, Is He willing to heal me?

No, He won't if you are not a sinner. But if you are a sinner -little or big, rich or poor - come and see! His promises have all the power of God behind them: "Him that cometh to Me I will in no [way] cast out" (John 6:37).

The leper fell on his knees in front of Jesus. He still was not sure that Jesus was willing, but Jesus was moved with pity. It was more than power reaching a long way down from heaven to heal a poor human; it was the loving heart of Jesus, who knows what we suffer and who is tenderhearted in suffering with us. Jesus touched him and said, "I will; be thou clean." And immediately every trace of leprosy was gone!

Jesus told the healed leper to say nothing to anyone about it. The first thing he was to do was show himself to the priest and make an offering for his healing as Moses had commanded. If he did this, the priest might have to search the Scriptures to find out what offering this should be, since he may never have had a healed leper come to him before. The priest might wonder who this wonderful Man was who could do such a great thing. If he searched the Scriptures deeper, he would discover that Jesus was truly the sent One whom God had promised long ago.

But the healed leper didn't follow Jesus' instructions. He was so excited that he told everybody and shouted out everywhere, Jesus healed me! This was true and wonderful, but it was not God's choice for him. His healing was plain enough to see, but as far as we know he never went to the priest about it as Jesus had instructed.

If you are truly cleansed from your sins, there will be a change in you too, and it begins on the inside. You have a new purpose now, and it changes your whole life. Do you belong to Jesus? Let Him show you what to do. That healed man hindered Jesus' work by telling everybody about it, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city.

Let Jesus choose for you. His way is perfect. "As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him" (Psalm 18:30).

Think About God's Word!

1. What was the leper not sure Jesus would do even though He could do it?

2. Have you ever wanted to do something kind that you just couldn't? How does Matthew 28:18 show that Jesus is able to do all that's His will to do?

Project: How many wonderful things does John 3 record that Jesus has done?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Who Put the Most Money Into the Treasury?

I think you all know how to count, and some of you know lots more than that. In fact, some of you might even be called a "math whiz." But even if you are smart, there are some math problems that are way beyond your brains or your computer to find the answer.

First question: How many stars are in the sky? We know that God placed them there with His fingers, but nobody can count them, and nobody ever will.

Second question: Which is greater, a hundred dollars or a penny? Read this story before you try to answer that one. It isn't as easy as it looks.

Jesus was sitting near the temple in Jeru-salem in a place near the treasury, and He saw the people putting in their money offerings. Maybe the coins were wrapped up, but that makes no difference to the eyes of the Son of God. Jesus knew exactly what each person put in, and He also knew how much he or she had left for themselves.

Along comes a rich man. His offering to the treasury is large. I don't know how much the offering was, but I'm sure Jesus had no trouble with calculations.

Here comes a poor lady whose husband is dead, and she has almost no money. If she gives her two mites to the treasury, then what will she have for dinner? Actually, she will have nothing left, because those two mites are the only money she has to live on. Can you guess what she did? Yes, she let those two mites slip from her fingers into the treasury. And I can tell you only one thing-Jesus saw it all - that she had nothing left for herself.

Are you sure that Jesus sees what you do? Can you let it all go and trust Him for the future? Don't you think there is a little bit that you might want to keep for yourself ? The Bible does not tell us what happened to that woman or what Jesus did for her. But think about God's great heart of love in this verse: "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). I know God's great heart of love, and I know He took care of all that poor widow's needs.

Here is the math question: Which was bigger, the rich man's large offering or the poor widow's two mites? Your computer won't come up with an answer to that question; however, Jesus already gives us the answer: "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all" (Luke 21:3). The poor widow's offering was all of her money - 100%!

Did the two mites add up to more than all the other rich offerings put together? Yes; Jesus said so. His values are not the same as ours. The widow's offering was a secret to everyone but God, and He knew and He valued it rightly.

Do you have secrets with Jesus that nobody else knows? Or maybe other people would not know how to value them if they did know. Can we trust Him for the future even if it looks impossible now?

First: We can trust Jesus to take from us the impossible load of our sins. We can't measure that load, but He can, because He bore it Himself in those dark hours on the cross. No computer on earth could ever measure that load, but Jesus knows.

Second: We can trust Jesus for our daily cares. He knows how big they are or how small they are. . . even when they seem big to us. He put the stars in the sky, and they are there day and night, whether we see them or not. If His understanding is limitless, surely He can understand our small cares.

Third: We can trust Jesus for our eternity. He will make a new body out of our dust or He will take us up in the clouds without ever dying. He will give each of us a new body to live with Himself forever. Maybe that looks impossible, but we can trust God's promise and His perfect wisdom, which never changes.

Are you trusting Jesus for your future?

Think About God's Word!

1. Who said the widow had put in more than all the rest?

2. When did you most recently give all your available money to someone else to use? What did the early Christians do in Acts 2:44-45?

Project: How many ways can you find in 2 Corinthians 8-9 that show how much God appreciates generous giving?

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 1, Man Who Came Running, The

The man came running. He was not going to miss his chance to speak to that wonderful Man, who could tell him what he really wanted to know. When he got to Jesus, he kneeled in front of Him, knowing that He was worthy of this honor.

What was it that this man wanted that he was in such a hurry to speak to Jesus? It must have been something important that he needed right away.

Yes, it was. He was a rich man, but he still had an emptiness in his heart. He knew that he would grow old and eventually leave his possessions behind when he died, and he wanted everlasting life. Who but Jesus could tell him how to get it?

“Good Master,” he said, “what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

That is a very strange question, isn’t it? Some of us have inherited things, because our parents or grandparents have died and left us things in their wills. But we didn’t really have to do anything to receive those things except be in the family, did we? But the rich man wanted to “do” something to earn eternal life. What could he do?

But Jesus knew, as He always does, what was missing in that man’s heart, and so He said, “Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.”

I think everyone must agree that Jesus was good, always was good and never had a moment of anything but good in Him. What does that mean? HE must be GOD! This is what the man was missing, and many people miss it today. Jesus is the eternal Son of God and worthy of everything we have!

Then Jesus began quoting to him some of the commandments, which he knew very well already. “Master,” he said, “all these have I [obeyed] from my youth.”

Jesus knew all about this man’s boyhood days and knew that he had been a good boy. As Jesus looked at him He loved him, but He knew there was one thing missing. Jesus had not quoted the commandments, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,” and, “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

“One thing thou lackest,” said Jesus, and this was going to touch a very tender point for this man. “Go. . . sell whatsoever thou hast . . . give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven. . . . Take up the cross . . . follow Me.”

But the man was rich. He thought that to give it all away was too much to ask. He went away distressed and sad.

Did he ever come back? Perhaps, after he learned who that wonderful Man really was. Maybe he changed his mind and was one of those in Acts 2:45 who were filled with rejoicing and praise. We don’t know. But we do know that Jesus, who created the heaven and earth, loves us so much that He gave ALL that He had to buy us with His precious blood. “Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). In Him we have the gift of eternal life, and in Him we have the inheritance we could never receive by doing anything.

I hope that man came back to Jesus, and I hope you will come too. Our Jesus, who is the Son of God, is high above all powers and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come. Will you follow Him now?

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